



Test-Only Stations

JANUARY 1998

Test-Only Stations are privately-owned Smog Check stations licensed by the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) to inspect and certify most vehicles, including Gross Polluters. While they can perform oil changes and lubrication services, they are prohibited from providing *any* repair services.

*Clean air is
everyone's
job!*

Test-Only Stations' Role

The addition of Test-Only Stations to the Smog Check program augments a service previously provided on a temporary basis by state-contracted Referee Centers. Now, owners of gross-polluting vehicles must have their vehicles tested and certified at *either* a Test-Only Station or a Gold Shield Gross Polluter Certification Pilot station.

Additionally, 15% of vehicles in Enhanced Areas will be directed to Test-Only Stations for their initial inspections at the time of their biennial Smog Check. These vehicles represent the 13% of vehicles most likely to fail as well as a 2% random sample.

Referee Centers, which are under contract to the State of California, will return to their traditional role, such as providing the following functions:

- issuing economic hardship extensions or repair cost waivers;
- certifying vehicles which have had their engines changed with an engine not originally offered for that year, make, or model; and
- certifying "gray market" and specially constructed vehicles being registered in California for the first time.

Test-Only Stations' Limitations

Test-Only Stations cannot:

- diagnose or perform *any* repairs on vehicles; or
- refer motorists to specific test-and-repair facilities.

Additionally, an owner of a Test-Only Station cannot have ownership, corporate, or financial interest in any test-and-repair station located within 50 miles.

Greater Consumer Convenience

The addition of Test-Only Stations now gives vehicle owners more choices—especially those with gross-polluting vehicles—which means greater convenience for California motorists.

How To Locate A Test-Only Station

There are several ways to find a Test-Only Station near you:

- check BAR's website at www.smogcheck.ca.gov or www.smogcheck.org;
- call the Department of Consumer Affairs Hotline at 1-800-952-5210; or
- check your local telephone directory.